

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, August 30, 1892

Beinn Bhreagh August 30th 1892 My dear Mrs Bell,

I am very much ashamed that you could with justice make such a complaint against us as in your letter just received— that you have not heard from any of us since we were together at Pemberton. I hardly know how it could have happened, and I am very sorry. I did not go to Colorado with Alec and I am very glad that I did not. It was a very long and hot journey, and I could not have done Alec very much good, while I was very much needed here. I found that Daisy had been more or less unwell ever since we left her and just before we arrived she was threatened with an attack of inflammation of the bowels. Fortunately it passed off without doing any harm, but she is not very strong this summer. Elsie, we think is improving all the time. It does not seem to disturb her at all having so many people around, and we feel very much encouraged.

We returned home yesterday from a few days excursion in the house-boat. It is the first time that we have had the boat out since the summer that you were with us and we enjoyed our little outing very much, in spite of the weather which was not of the best, rain about every half hour. We took the boat up St Patrick' [Channel, to a place about half-way to the Little Narrows, where we found a beautiful little harbor, completely land-locked. We were quite a large party, and occupied both beds in the parlor and the smoking room. Major Powell is with us, and he contributed a good deal to the pleasure of the party. Then there was Grace and Gardiner, and Aileen. Mr McCurdy has gone back to the boat today and taken Mr Kennan and his family, and is going to move the boat to a new position close by the Little Narrows We went there yesterday on the tug, and then transferred ourselves to a row-boat and explored the coves around, finding a lovely sheltered place where the boat will be safe from every wind that blows. There we mean to leave her for the present, and

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hope before very long to be able to make her a little visit all by ourselves. Tonight Major Powell is going to give a lecture in the Court-house to the people of Baddeck, by invitation of the Young Ladie's Club. The other day my father gave a lecture in the the same place, and under the same auspices, on South America. Major Powell's will be on the Canyons of the Colerado River. Dont you think the club is getting a booming? My sewing-class, too is doing very well, and is prepared to take orders for hand-made under clothing at reasonable rates. Dont you want to patronize us? I cant "guarantee satisfaction", but I will promise to do my best to have the work well done. I am having all the children's under-clothing and mine made here, but the difficulty just now is that as soon as they get anything done for me now somebody else among the summer visitors sees it and buys it. The summer trade however will not last very long and we shall be thankful for orders on which to occupy the long winter evenings. But I did not mean to mix business with pleasure. The trouble is that my mind is full of it, I am so much pleased with the work done and the ready sale for it we have found, and at prices too which I think too h high, and which I would not have asked myself.

I do not know at all when we shall go back to Washington ALec has been here such a short time, and so much has been going on that we have not been able to talk over mattars. Did you see the plans and drawings for our new house here? They were at the Pemberton, but I cant remember whether you sa? them. They are non in the hands of contractors, and we hope soon to know something definite about the cost. Then we shall decide whether to order the house, or not. The children have been out for a drive with the Major, and have just come in. He is so nice with them, and they enjoy him very much. When we were away with the boat he organized an exploring expedition, lead by himself, and composed of all the children, and went off in the thicket, not returning until just as we thought we should have to send the tug back to town without them. They would not have been sorry, but we would, because there was not room on the boat for them and Grace and Aileen. My father was so much pleased with the way in which he saw Alec teaching Elsie how to swim that he rowed right over to the other side to get his little girl to come

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and have a lesson too. The children from the other side have not been over this year on account of that absurd shark story, but my father forgot all about that when he saw how much Gypsey was losing.

It is getting late now so I must say Good Bye. How do you like my type-written letter? I thought that I would try this kind of writing, because I think you find it rather hard to read my hand-writing. Much love to Mr Bell and our cousins. I will try to write oftener.

Afectionately Your daughter Mabel